

In a MS. called "The Boke of Curtasye"—a sort of treatise on etiquette, in which all grades of society are taught their duties—the chamberlain is commanded to provide for his master's uprising, a "clene shirte," bordered with lace and curiously adorned with needlework.

The correspondence, too, of Honourable Lady Lisle, seized by Henry VIII.²⁴ as treasonous and dangerous to the state, embraces a hot correspondence with one Sœur Antoinette de Sevenges, a nun milliner of Dunkirk, on the important subject of nightcaps,²⁵ one half-dozen of which, she complains, are far too wide behind, and not of the lozenge (cut) work pattern she had selected. The nightcaps were in consequence to be changed.

Anne Basset, daughter of the said Lady Lisle, educated in a French convent, writes earnestly begging for an "edge of perle"²⁶ for her coif and a tablete (tablier) to ware." Her sister Mary, too, gratefully expresses her thanks to her mother, in the same year,²⁷ for the "laced gloves you sent me by bearer." Calais was still an English possession, and her products, like those of the Scotch border fortresses, were held as such.²⁸

Lace still appears but sparingly on the scene. Among the privy purse expenses of the king in 1530,²⁹ we find five shillings and eightpence paid to Richard Cecyll,³⁰ groom of the robes, for eight pieces of "yolowe lace, bought for the King's Grace." We

²⁴ In 1539.

²⁵ "Lisle Corr." vol. i. p. 64. P. R. O. Lord Lisle was governor of Calais, whence the letter is dated.

"Honor. Lylle to Madame Antoinette de Sevenges, à Dunkerke.

"Madame,—Je ne vous eusse vollu envoier ceste demi dousaine pourchangier nestoit que tous celles que menvoiez dernièrement sont trop larges, et une dousaine estoit de cestuy ouvrage dont jestis esmerveillé, veu que je vous avois escript que menvoissiez de louvrage aux lozenges, vous priant que la demy dousaine que menvoierez pour ceste demy dousaine soient du dict ouvrage de lozenge, et quil soient plus estroictes mesmement par devant noeobstant que lexemple est au contraire."

²⁶ Among the marriage clothes of

Mary Neville, who espoused George Clifton, 1536, is:—

"A neyge of perle, 1l. 4s. 0d."

In the pictures, at Hampton Court Palace, of Queens Mary and Elizabeth, and another of Francis II., all as children, their ruffs are edged with a very narrow purl.

²⁷ 1538. "Lisle Corr." P. R. O.

²⁸ See p. 255.

²⁹ Privy Purse Ex. Hen. VIII. 1529–1532. Sir H. Nicolas.

³⁰ Father of Lord Burleigh. There are other similar entries:—"8 pieces of yellow silk, 9s. 4d." Also, "green silk lace."

1632, "green silk lace" occurs again, as trimming a pair of French shoes in a "Bill of shoes for Sir Francis Windebank and family."—*State Papers, Dom.* vol. ccxxi. P. R. O.